

EAST BOLDON ALTERNATIVE PROVISION

Our curriculum

What we teach, and what a week actually looks like

We are not a school, and we are not required to follow the National Curriculum. We follow it anyway. Most of our children are going back to a school that teaches it, or on to a college that assumes it, and they should not arrive behind for a reason we created. We hold written schemes of work for English, maths and science.

What we adapt is how it is taught — the order, the pace, the setting and the length of a session. Where a child's starting point is well below their year group we teach what they need next, rather than what their age says they should be doing.

What we cover

Strand	What is covered	How it is delivered	Accreditation
English and literacy	Writing for real purposes — a letter, an application, an account of something that happened. Speaking and listening, which for many of our children is the barrier that shows first. Spelling, punctuation and grammar taught where they are needed rather than as a separate subject.	Every morning a child attends, in groups of seven to ten. Scheme of work followed by all staff teaching it.	AQA Unit Award Scheme
Reading	Every child is assessed on arrival rather than asked. Structured support follows, including phonics at any age where that is what a child needs. Adults read aloud to young people here, whatever their age.	Built into every session rather than confined to an English lesson. Progress tracked termly.	—
Maths and numeracy	Number, money, measure and time. Enough to manage a wage, a tenancy and a shop, and then enough to progress.	Every morning a child attends. Scheme of work.	AQA Unit Award Scheme
Science and the natural world	Biology, chemistry and physics — life cycles, nutrition, disease, seasons, materials, forces, energy and the environment. Mapped to the Key Stage 3 programme of study.	Every morning a child attends. 108 standalone sessions across 18 topics, so a child joining in February starts on a whole session rather than half-way through a unit. Much of it is taught through the land and the animals.	Not currently accredited
Animal care	Daily care and welfare, handling, feeding, health and biosecurity. Recognising when an animal has had enough, and what to do about it.	Afternoon pathway. Real work in real conditions, including in February.	AQA Unit Award Scheme
Equine	Riding, handling, yard routines, tack, and reading another creature's state. Responsibility and patience, and for a number of children the first relationship in years in which they are needed.	Afternoon pathway, on a yard holding a five star licence from South Tyneside Council — the highest rating available, awarded on inspection.	ABRS awards
Horticulture and land management	Growing, seasons, soil, tools and maintaining ground. Planning work that takes longer than a day.	Afternoon pathway.	AQA Unit Award Scheme
Practical and vocational skills	Construction, joinery, cookery, hair and beauty, first aid, and construction health and safety.	Afternoon pathway. Each child chooses two pathways and stays with them long enough to get somewhere.	AQA Unit Award Scheme
PSHE and RSHE	Relationships, health, keeping safe, money and the law, taught to the statutory guidance that came	Three ways: planned sessions on Wednesdays; in the moment,	—

into force on 1 September 2026. It has a policy of its own, which parents can ask for.

where most of the real learning happens; and through the animal and land work. Coverage is tracked for each child rather than for a group.

Physical activity and outdoor learning	Golf, archery and football, and being outside. Movement, and the regulation that comes with it.	Afternoon pathway and throughout the day.	AQA Unit Award Scheme
Careers and preparation for adulthood	What work is actually like, what a young person is good at, and what happens next. Applications, interviews and the practical business of leaving.	From Year 10, and earlier where a child is ready.	—
Enrichment	Trips, visitors and experiences that a young person would not otherwise have. Equestrian students go to the Great Yorkshire Show each year; there is a day out with the mounted police; and Recreational Sports students can join a week-long programme with the Police and Crime Commissioner.	Through the year.	—

A typical week

Children come to us three days a week, from 10am to 2pm — twelve hours across the week. We work in small groups of seven to ten.

There is a free breakfast every day, before anything else starts. For a good number of our children it is the first thing they have eaten that day, and nobody is asked about it.

Mornings are maths, English and science. PSHE is on a Wednesday.

Afternoons are the pathways. Each child chooses two and stays with them — horse riding, life skills, golf, archery, hair and beauty, animal care, construction, joinery, football, horticulture, first aid, cookery, land management, and construction health and safety.

Every child has a welfare session once a week with the same adult, and it is recorded in the same way a lesson is.

Every lesson is rated and written up the same day, so we can tell you at any point how your child is getting on rather than only at the end of term.

How outreach differs

Some children are not able to come to us at all yet. For them we work in the home or in the community, for three to six hours a week.

The aim there is different. We are not trying to cover a broad curriculum in three hours — we are trying to get some traction: a young person who will open the door, sit down, and do something. Reading and number come first, because they matter most and because they travel.

We say plainly that three to six hours a week is not full-time education, and we say it in writing to the local authority too. It is a valuable part of a package, and the authority still has a duty to arrange the rest.

Children work towards the AQA Unit Award Scheme and awards from the Association of British Riding Schools. We are not an examination centre, so entries are made through a host centre or through a child's home school.

If you would like to see any of the policies or schemes of work referred to here, please ask and we will send them.